

# Olive Trees

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VOL. XXXVI

JUNE, 1921

No. 6

A MONTHLY MISSIONARY JOURNAL  
Published by The Board of Foreign  
Missions of the Synod of the Re-  
formed Presbyterian Church of North  
America in the interest of Mission Work

## ANNUAL REPORT NUMBER

In reporting the work for the past fiscal year, your Board expresses gratitude to God. Whatever has been accomplished, to Him is all the glory. Where hindrances have been removed, it is of the Lord. Where the work has enlarged, it is by His grace.

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# OLIVE TREES

A Monthly Missionary Journal.

PUBLISHED BY THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS OF THE  
SYNOD OF THE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF  
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# OLIVE TREES

A Monthly Journal devoted to Missionary Work in the Reformed Presbyterian Church, U. S. A.

VOL. XXXVI

JUNE, 1921

No. 6

## REPORT OF THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS

The Redeemer's work is one, whether at home or abroad. His people are one church, whether here, or in the "regions beyond." What we call Home work is the Lord's. What we call Foreign work is the Lord's. Because of distance and complex administration, all churches have Foreign Mission Boards, charged with administrative responsibility, and answerable to the Church courts in the Lord. Probably no denomination, membership considered, exceeds the Covenanter (Synod) in the volume of out-go from the home base, and the volume of work on the foreign field. The whole Church rejoices. To God be all the glory. Prayer goes up continually for it in the pulpit, in the prayer-meeting, in the Young People's meeting, in the missionary societies, at the family altar, in the secret chamber. The intensive prayers of the people of God is the great, underlying life force. They are the spreading, hidden roots through which spiritual vitality is drawn from the throne of grace. Let these prayers not decrease! Let them be intensified! Let them be multiplied, with hands lifted up.

The membership of the Covenanter Church is in close touch with their foreign mission work. Most of them know the missionary personnel. They have an intelligent understanding of the fields; the hinderances which beset the way. They understand the spread of the gospel in spite of the hinderances; and, thanking God, they tighten their girdles. There is compensation in being in a small Church, for each regards the work as his own personal business and takes a hand.

In reporting the work for the past fiscal year, your Board expresses gratitude to God. Whatever has been accomplished, to Him is all the glory. Where hinderances have been removed, it is of the Lord. Where the work has enlarged, it is by His grace.

Before speaking of various fields, we will be pardoned for, first of all, referring to the Board's great loss, and the Church's great loss, in the death of Dr. Sterrett Alexander Metheny, the Board's beloved President. He was a man of unusual parts, of fine Christian character; of most sincere devotions; a finished scholar, a Brother greatly beloved. The Divine Master completed the work He would do through him, and called him to receive the crown. He is greatly missed in our Board; in the church courts; and in the work of the Church. "The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance" (Ps. 112-6).

### Levant Missions.

It is easier to raise a big crop on the rich brown soil of level Iowa than in rocky uptilted regions. In the one the plowshare runs sweetly; in the other it spits fire. The harvest is an hundred-fold, in the one; in the other the return is small reward for heroic effort. In the Levant, the plowing is, metaphorically, among rocks. A small harvest of souls may possibly represent the most sustained, prayerful, and courageous effort. The dominating religion there is fierce, uncompromizing, fanatical, and claims the right of domain by almost undisputed possession for twenty generations. It has an interlocking official relation

with the government, the Sublime Porte being the Head of the system. Under the shadow of the government and with rulers, high and low, saturated with hatred, you have conditions which, in evangelization, call for the most sustained and prayerful determination.

Nor should we look at these fields and see the few, comparatively speaking, in the Church in Latakia, Mersine, Cyprus and outlying centres. Bear in mind the many gathered since 1856. When you ask about the dollars, ask also, how many are up yonder? Those down here and those up there form a pretty large congregation. Conditions considered, we should shout—"Allelujah!" and pull out the stops until, in mighty diapason, our songs well up to the throne of God.

#### Latakia and Region.

A General, riding the battlefield in Russia's war with Japan, came upon a sergeant with bandaged head, and three privates, all bleeding from wounds. The grizzled warrior, in some heart, demanded: "What are you doing away from your regiment?" The sergeant, rising in military salute, answered: "General, we are the regiment, what is left." Their comrades had died, standing true to their trust. Such can be said, metaphorically, of the small garrison of Christian warriors in our Syrian, Tarsus and Cyprus fields during the terrible years of war. All stood heroically at the post of duty, whether in the gate, in prison, or in whatsoever duty assigned, until the muttering storm gave place to a bow of promise.

Since the Board's last Report, conditions in Syria and Asia Minor have improved a little; but there is still looting and burning by bandits. As an illustration: the inhabitants of Guanimia, who returned with torn flesh, with bleeding feet, with streaming tears, with breaking heart, to desolations which marked their homes, were again set upon by marauders and

fierce fanatics. They fled to Latakia, and were cared for by the Mission, as well as limited resources would permit. They were in wretched beggary, in pitiable distress, wailing out their sorrows! What does the Redeemer intend us to see in these sad experiences, for most of the inhabitants of Guanimia are members of our congregation there. Is He testing us for the Judgment Day—"I was hungry"—"I was thirsty"—"I was naked." Certainly He is laying at our feet the opportunity to make good. The Mission Report reads: "The arrival from the U. S. of a large number of boxes of clothing in the late summer aided greatly in providing the winter needs of these unfortunate people thrown on our compassion, and our grateful thanks are due the donors. Rev. Edgar has carried the work of distribution to the needy. Dr. Balph is still at the Head of the Near East Relief work in the district."

With Dr. and Mrs. Stewart on furlough, missionaries on the field in terms of service, are Miss Maggie B. Edgar, Dr. and Mrs. J. M. Balph, Rev. Samuel Edgar, Miss Annie Kennedy and Miss Mary E. Shanks. While all the work is steadily evangelistic, yet it falls naturally into preaching, medicine and schools. These interlock and overlap. Each aids and reinforces the other. Redemption through the blood of Christ as the one great purpose which your Board keeps in view with steady determination. Rev. Samuel Edgar preaches in the city; out of the city, in whatsoever region he may enter. He gathers people here and there and proclaims the gospel. He meets the people in their humble homes and prays with them and encourages them to take new heart. Many lift up their eyes to the cross. Affliction in his family still detains his wife in the home land. May the Lord repay their great sacrifice in their long separation.

In Latakia, church services and prayer meeting have been maintained

with good attendance. The report reads: "Our young Syrian minister, Khalil Awad, one of the three ordained a year ago, has given great comfort and encouragement to the missionaries and satisfaction and help to the people by the way he has carried on the work. With whole heartedness, reverence and dignity he magnifies his office. His messages are full of the gospel and well delivered. He has also been faithful in pastoral work among the people." At their Communion in December, 125 sat down at the Lord's table. Nearly half of them came from outside stations, for no observance of the Supper was possible outside of the city. There were 26 accessions by profession of faith, 13 from Gunaimia, 5 from other villages, and 8 from Latakia. There were 11 baptisms during the year, and \$175 in collections. The Sabbath School shows an enrollment of 229, and 13 teachers. The attendance averages 150 to 160. The Mission is seeking a qualified Bible reader, in place of one resigned.

#### School Work.

School work in Latakia has continued without interruption the year. There is an attendance of 95-100 girls, and 120-125 boys. Miss Maggie B. Edgar has charge of the Girls' school. Many patient years has she spent, not only teaching the curriculum, but in stressing the gospel, and in leading the girls into richer and nobler womanhood. She was heartened, as was all the Latakia band, by the arrival of the new missionaries, Miss Annie L. Kennedy, Miss Mary E. Shanks and Miss Elizabeth McElroy. They came full of infectious enthusiasm. Miss Kennedy, who will have to do with English especially, immediately took hold of the work, and has become so proficient that Miss Edgar, whose furlough is long overdue, and who toiled on amid the hardships, distractions and distresses of the war, could for the first time leave the work in her hands. Miss

Shanks, assigned to Latakia Centre, and Miss McElroy, assigned to Mersine Centre, have taken the year in the Missionary Language School, Beirut. Commendable reports are had of their work in this school.

Since the departure of Dr. and Mrs. Stewart on furlough, Rev. Samuel Edgar has superintended the Boys' School. Here there has been a greater demand for French. A teacher has been employed for three hours each day, the government paying the salary. But the Mission says: "While it has been found wise to increase the teaching of these languages, the same emphasis has been given as heretofore to the missionary aspect of the schools. The Bible, Catechisms and Psalms are daily taught in Arabic; and the gospel teaching of repentance and faith in Christ, a renewed heart and Spirit-filled life, are first things and kept constantly before the pupils. Of the three graduates, two are professing Christians."

#### Hospital Work.

The Mission, the people of Latakia, and people of the villages, rejoiced at the re-opening of the hospital. At the first, Dr. Balph had almost to make brick without straw—little equipment. But he accomplished great things with scanty resources. So many came to clinics that the three a week were wholly insufficient. Nearly every forenoon was used in this work. Forty to one hundred were prescribed for at each clinic. With the city full of refugees, living in most unsanitary conditions, many fell under disease. Dr. Balph strove to ameliorate the appalling conditions. It was a stupendous task.

As the government had stripped the hospital, it must first be re-equipped. Friends in the home land sent supplies. The Near East Committee furnished cots and blankets. Finally the hospital was opened with 12 beds and a nurse from Beirut. It is rare, says the Doctor, to have a cot empty. Forty-five cases were received up to

January 1, and opportunity is had for more direct religious work. Not less than 15,000 persons have been treated, and 1400 visits made to homes.

#### Work in Villages.

Much to the regret of the workers little could be done in this field. Conditions were too unsettled. Rev. Edgar made a trip to Jendaria, and he and Rev. Awad made a visit to the two schools, Eldany and Kilmacho. More than this could not be done. However, most of the teachers of outlying districts were gathered for a Conference at Latakia in July. The workers were refreshed by spiritual communion, and by "papers" on spiritual and helpful themes. This was the first opportunity of the kind since 1912. The school at Jendaria has thirty pupils. Two other schools were opened, but only one of them was able to continue. The teachers try to conduct Sabbath School, and something of a Sabbath service.

#### Suadea.

Visits to Suadea have been possible only by boats plying up and down the coast, and part of the time this means was cut off. A little work, however, has been carried forward. But there has been no evangelist, and the work has lacked a strong superintendent. The mission premises, looted by the Turks, was stripped of everything that could be ripped off and torn out. Some of the beams in the chapel-roof were giving way, but neither men nor material were available to make repairs. But a school work has been carried on with 95 to 100 boys and girls, with three teachers.

In closing report, the Mission says: "We are conscious that apart from outside hinderances, we have not had that measure of the Spirit's power for which we have longed. We see the land distracted and torn with conflict and turmoil, groaning under the judgments of God, yet not learning righteousness. We are hourly constrained to cry 'O Lord, revive thy work in the

midst of the year; in wrath remember mercy.'"

#### Asia Minor.

What has been said of the few workers on the Syrian Field can be said with renewed emphasis of the Tarsus Field. There, there is but one minister and his family and Miss M. Elma French, teacher. Miss Elizabeth McElroy, in Language School, is on the roster of this Mission. Dr. McFarland and family and Dr. Peoples and family are home on much-needed furlough. Mrs. Peoples has been ill these months. All will pray that she may soon be restored.

Missionary Wilson writes as follows: "Throughout the year, Asia Minor has been the scene of hostilities between the Turkish Nationalists and the French Army of Occupation. For the most part of the time the mission field in Celicia has been on the edge of the line of battle; and sometimes almost in the 'No Man's Land.' From the middle of June to the middle of October, communications with both Tarsus and Adana were extremely difficult, and at times were broken off completely. For months previous to this, travel was so uncertain that one could not go away from home, except in the prospect of great uncertainties, and long delay in getting back. On December 4-7, I visited Adana and Tarsus. This was my first since March, 1920."

The burden of the Near East Relief Work, a work absolutely necessary, fell on Mr. Wilson's shoulders. And with supervising mission work, his hands have been more than full with strenuous labors. Providentially in June, Rev. Mikail came to Mersine and took the responsibility of the preaching services. Mr. Wilson says: "This has relieved me of a great load at a time when it would have been impossible for me to have kept it up. We are all very grateful for his efficient services."

Communion was held January 9, 1921. Three were added on profes-

sion of faith, and two were restored. There were 27 communicants, including three missionaries. Effort was made to re-organize the Sabbath School, with classes in Arabic, Turkish and English. The attendance is about 75. Also, attendance at the morning service has noticeably increased.

Mrs. Wilson has succeeded in keeping up the meetings among the women in the homes on Thursday afternoons almost without a break. The attendance is 20 to 35. Mrs. Wilson also has oversight of the direct relief work in the distribution of clothing, blankets, beds, etc.

#### Tarsus.

Because of difficulties in the way, and the absence of Rev. Mikhial in Mersine, it was reluctantly decided not to attempt to open the school work there for the year.

#### Adana.

At Adana the work has been carried on by Rev. Hanna Besna and without serious interruption, though at one time shells fell in the immediate neighborhood of the house occupied by Mr. Besna. Attendance at the meetings is good; the room being at times very full. The Mission is looking for better quarters, as the premises are very poor. A Communion was to be held in Adana on the last Sabbath of January.

The Mission reports quite a demand for Turkish Bibles. There is call for 50 as soon as they can be secured. They are sold to Moslems.

#### School Work.

Miss French reports that the two schools were opened October 4, with an enrollment of 17 in each school. The number increased until there was an enrollment of 95 at the end of December. In the Girls' School there were 10 Protestants, 25 Greeks, 1 Armenian Catholic, 1 Fellah, 3 Mohammedans. In the Boys': 5 Protestants, 31 Greeks, 5 Fellaheen, 8 Armenian Catholics, 6 Mohammedans.

The teachers have done excellent work. Examinations show good work on the part of the pupils. Because of lack of teachers, Miss French has taught six classes a day, and has taken time needed for other things.

In closing her report Miss French says: "I cannot close without saying that I feel that I want to write: '*Wanted! A consecrated young man for the Boys' School in Mersine!*' so that the young men of the Covenanter Church may be able to see it. One person cannot look after the English and the Arabic, and do all the other work which must be done, if we keep our heads above water. Other forces are hard at work, and if we do not advance we will lose the battle. I wonder how we can meet our Commander if we are guilty of retreating. I am only holding on until help can come. I hope and pray that the help will come ere it be too late."

This touching appeal is commended to the prayerful consideration of the young men of the Covenanter Church. Your Board is burdened with anxiety.

In the Tarsus Mission, January 1, 1921, there were 80 members in regular standing. There are two ordained evangelists, 5 Bible readers, two men-teachers, 2 women-teachers. The Sabbath School, Mersine, has an enrollment of 78. The Day School 55 boys and 40 girls.

Missionary Wilson closes with these words: "The future is in the hands of the Mediator, who, out of the cloud and shadow of the world's desolation, is prepared to bring the glory of His blessed kingdom in response to the faith of His people." "Lord, increase our faith."

#### CYPRUS.

As Dr. Calvin McCarroll and family are home on furlough, the workers on this field are Rev. Alvin W. Smith and Mr. Earnest V. Tweed. The present force is small for a comparatively large and important work. These young men are doing their best.

Their faith is seen in this expression in their report: "The spiritual outlook for Christ's work in Cyprus has been shown from experience gained in the past year as bright as the outlook for the gospel, which continues to be the power of God unto salvation." The work for the year has been confined largely to school work and evangelistic work through the schools. Students are encouraged to raise questions, and this, in turn, creates desire to know more of the Word of God, and this stimulates Bible study. "Frankly," the report reads, "the students are ready for more than we can give them in the class-room and out." Thursday afternoons are devoted almost entirely to Bible study. The missionaries are hoping that ere long an advanced course in Bible Training may be given to prepare workers. With the present force this is not yet possible. Meetings are held with young men for religious discussion, and with personal salvation as the foremost topic. The meetings are closed with prayer. Reading of the Word is urged upon students. Mr. Elliott's Hand Book and Bible Folders are used. Services on Sabbath were well attended during the year. Pastoral visitation is welcomed. But the workers are so pressed that no one is free for distinctly evangelistic work, outside as well as inside the school. They add: "As a result of this situation there are scarcely any Cypriotes now who can be called evangelical Christians. Nearly the total membership of the Church in Cyprus is composed of Armenians, none of whom are true Cypriotes." "You ask," the report continues, "Why no Cypriotes are in the Church? Is there no opportunity?" There could scarcely be a more open door. Prejudice and fanaticism have largely disappeared. Then what do you propose to change the situation? *Give us enough teachers for the Academy, to release ministers for Evangelistic Work.* Let them visit in the homes of the students, and cultivate the friendship of

the fathers and mothers. Let them be free for preaching the gospel all over the Island. If a mission cannot maintain its crowning work—*Evangelism*—it must fail in its highest end." Here is a pressing "call" to young ministers.

On the distinctly spiritual side, Rev. Alvin W. Smith has sought to keep the work going in both Larnica and Nicocia, going to the latter place once a month. Communion services were held in both places in December, with preparatory services, evenings and Saturday afternoon. Mr. Smith adds: "New life is needed."

Mr. Tweed has pressed his work with energy and he is striving faithfully to do his part in the large task assigned. He not only teaches in the class-room, but he directs the boys in many ways, and to a higher and uplifted life. He has gone to the field for three years. Who, what college graduate, will take up this splendid work with him?

The Field Report closes thus: "We appreciate the opportunity of work in this field, and are grateful for the intercession, the continued intercession, of many friends in the home land for the progress of the kingdom and work in Cyprus."

No statistics accompanied the "report."

## CHINA.

From the small beginning in Tak Hing, the work has reached wide territory. While the work falls under separate divisions, as Evangelistic, Medicine, Teaching, yet these overlap, and intrude, in a helpful way, one upon the other. Teaching, if not accompanied by evangelism, is but educating, and reinforcing a heathen. Healing, if not accompanied with holding forth Christ, has made him no better in heart. Your Board is glad to say that in all lines of work, there is an ever-present, prayerful, earnest presentation of the blessed gospel of the Son of God. The Missionaries leave no opportunity unused.





OUR MISSIONARIES IN CHINA

### Evangelistic.

This includes stated preaching in congregations, and itinerary work in going from village to village, and from city to city, as did the Master. There must be established centres; influential centres; strong centres, where the higher standards are disclosed, both in teaching and in the lives of the people. The spread of the work into the "regions beyond" is great encouragement and heartens the workers.

A spiritual awakening, shared by the missionaries, by native Christians, and by inquirers, was experienced in a series of meetings held January 25 to February 2, inclusive. Dr. Jonathan Goforth delivered daily messages, richly illustrated by what he had seen of the Spirit's power in Korea, and in parts of China. The meetings were prepared for by concerted prayer for many weeks, and the study of the Book of Acts. "The

central truth presented and on which the changes were continually rung," says the report, "was sin in the life as an effectual barrier to fellowship with God, and to power in witnessing, and must be put away by repentance and confession before peace and joy can be experienced." Many hearts were melted under the impact of the Spirit's power. Fountains of tears were opened. Confession of sin was poured forth in agony and grief. Restitution of wrongfully gotten gain was made. The incense of prayer ascended from broken hearts and joy in the Holy Ghost was experienced.

All this to us in the home land, set and staid in our ways, so nicely precise in our doings, is wonderful! Would that God would cause such experiences to be had all over the Church!

While there was no remarkable ingathering, yet the Mission believes

that many received new baptism of the Holy Ghost. They have new purpose, new inspiration, new views of service. A series of meetings was held at Lo Ting. Another series was held at Do Sing. The work caused the missionaries to believe that there is available much unemployed talent which ought to be used.

Of the meetings in Lo Ting, Missionary W. M. Robb reports that the evangelistic interest grew directly out of the spiritual atmosphere created in the special meetings in Tak Hing. Special invitations were issued; and also to a special evangelistic service held on Sabbath evenings for many weeks. "The fruits," says Mr. Robb, "are not as abundant as could be hoped for. Indeed, there is a most earnest appeal for prayer. Many converts seem to have but faint con-

ception of the claims of Christ upon their lives, services and possessions. This condition has existed for years, and has been the great burden of the prayers of those who have labored, and are laboring, here, that God would change hearts until there shall be a willing people to serve Him in the day of His power."

In Lo Ting the Catholics are getting foothold. They have stationed two priests there, and are securing buildings, and have laid out an extensive program. Their sensuous forms of worship naturally appeal to the people. The situation calls for earnest prayer.

Work in Lin Taan and in Che Tsai has proceeded with varying results. At Wai Tai there are encouragements. Other outposts are being established with Satan fighting to hold men in bondage.

*(This Report will be concluded in our next issue.)*

### Summary of Foreign Mission Accounts for the Year Ending April 30, 1921.

Although each of these funds shows a working balance of a few thousand dollars, it is not to be construed that these missions are rich in funds. Collections from now on will be very lean until the latter part of the year, and about the middle of August the salaries and children's allowances for the six months to come will be sent to the field, which will then cause the respective funds to show great deficits.

#### CHINA MISSION

Balance May 1, 1920 .....	\$15,002.64	
Total Receipts:		
From Congregations .....	27,428.83	
" Sabbath Schools and Societies .....	2,834.75	
" Individuals .....	914.00	
" Miscelalaneous Sources .....	6,872.07	
		\$53,052.29
<i>Disbursements</i>		
Salaries .....	\$21,730.00	
Mission Expense .....	23,058.95	
Travel .....	2,769.73	
Balance May 1, 1921 .....		47,558.68
		\$5,493.61
Liberty Bonds—\$5,950.00.		

#### LEVANT MISSIONS

Balance May 1, 1920 .....	\$13,823.22	
Total Receipts:		
From Congregations .....	17,395.76	
" Sabbath Schools and Societies .....	2,328.52	
" Individuals .....	1,059.34	
" Miscellaneous Sources .....	13,949.29	
		\$48,558.13

*Disbursements*

*Syria:*

Salaries .....	\$8,283.34	
Mission Expense .....	16,418.55	
Travel .....	4,328.41	
	<u>          </u>	\$29,030.30

*Asia Minor:*

Salaries .....	\$6,766.67	
Mission Expense .....	2,222.54	
Travel .....	1,316.83	
	<u>          </u>	10,306.04

*Cyprus:*

Salaries .....	\$1,600.00	
Mission Expense .....	2,808.79	
Travel .....	478.67	
	<u>          </u>	4,887.46

44,223.80

Balance May 1, 1921 ..... \$4,332.33

Liberty Bonds—\$3,700.00.

SPECIAL FUNDS

*China:*

Balance May 1, 1920 .....	\$1,388.40	
Receipts .....	10,003.61	
	<u>          </u>	\$11,392.01
Payments .....		6,080.56
		<u>          </u>
		\$5,311.45

Liberty Bonds—\$1,100.00.

*Syria:*

Balance May 1, 1920 .....	\$5,530.90	
Receipts .....	8,349.98	
	<u>          </u>	\$13,880.88
Payments .....		10,526.02
		<u>          </u>
		\$3,354.86

Balance May 1, 1921 .....

Liberty Bonds—\$450.00.

*Asia Minor:*

Balance May 1, 1920 .....	Nothing	
Receipts .....	\$540.14	
Payments .....	530.14	
	<u>          </u>	\$10.00

*Cyprus:*

Balance May 1, 1920 .....	\$110.00	
Receipts .....	140.00	
	<u>          </u>	\$250.00
Payments .....		250.00
		<u>          </u>

No Balance May 1, 1921.

## OUR MISSION IN CHINA.

I wish to correct a mistake in the very interesting "Biography of the Mission in China," which appeared in the December number of OLIVE TREES. It is in regard to the Genesis of that Mission. It was much earlier than Mr. Johnston's resolution of 1890.

The evident intention of the Turkish Government to destroy Christian schools in Turkey in the eighties led Dr. Metheny to propose that our Church start a second Foreign Mission. In 1885, while living in Tarsus, he pledged himself to give \$100 a year for ten years to start such a work. China was not at that time in his mind; his thoughts turned to the vast unoccupied regions of Africa, where the knowledge of the Arabic language might be utilized, should we be shut out of Turkey. From that time he talked and wrote "a second Covenanter Foreign Mission."

To the best of my recollection none of the force in the field sympathized with this idea, except our little group in Mersine. When Dr. McAllister and Mr. O'Neill made their visit to the East in 1888 Miss Dodds and Miss Joseph traveled with them through the Holy Land. On their return Miss Dodds told us that they and Mr. Easson, who accompanied them, talked the matter over and unanimously agreed that it would not be wise to begin a new mission; that we should rather concentrate on the field already in our hands.

It does not seem that Synod took Mr. Johnston's resolution of 1890 very seriously. Dr. Metheny's proposal for a new mission antedated this resolution by five years, and during this time he had been putting away the amount of his pledge, and gained some sympathizers, who were willing to help to finance the project.

Mr. Johnston, who had worked among the Chinese on our Western coast, and long agitated the question of a mission to China, but it was not till the Synod of 1892 that it became

a fixed fact. Dr. Metheny made a short visit to the United States in the spring of that year, and in conference with Mr. Johnston, who was a very dear friend, agreed to let the mission for which he had been pleading for nine years be a Mission to China. He had by this time, in addition to his original pledge, given the price of his summer home in the Latakia field to the work, besides other donations and sums from friends.

At this Synod he showed that he had already in hand sums enough to fulfill the conditions on which the Synod of 1890 had expressed their willingness to begin a mission to China. Strange to say it was with difficulty that even then the measure was carried through, for it was opposed—even bitterly—by some of the most prominent members of Synod.

The "Mission in China" then, was born in Tarsus, in 1885, and humanly speaking would never have come into existence but for the compelling personality of Dr. Metheny's presence at the Synod of 1894. And I am sure that N. R. Johnston and Dr. Metheny rejoice over every soul that is there brought into the Kingdom.

MARY E. METHENY.

Beaver Falls, February 3, 1921.

### Mrs. Rebecca Hood.

The Woman's Missionary Society of Oakdale Congregation place on record the death of Mrs. Rebecca Hood, November 5, 1920, aged 89 years. Mrs. Hood was the last of the charter members of our society and was a faithful and active worker as long as her health permitted. Her life was devoted to God's service and in her death we trust that God has taken her to her home in heaven. We erect no broken column in her memory but trust that her life while among us may prove an inspiration to those who remain to do more and better work for the Master. As a society we extend our sympathy to the bereaved family and commend them to the great sympathizer of Bethany

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

AND NOTES OF THE WORKERS

Edited by MRS. FINDLEY M. WILSON, 2410 N. Marshall Street  
Philadelphia, Penna.

The call for teachers for the American Academy at Larnaca, Cyprus, has been answered by two young men of the graduating class of Geneva College. They are Mr. Remo Robb, son of Rev. A. I. Robb, of Tak Hing, China, and Mr. Robert W. George, of Belle Center, Ohio. They expect to sail August 5th on the S. S. Canada.

\* \* \* \*

Reservations have been made on the same steamer that will carry the young teachers for Cyprus, for Dr. R. E. Smith and wife who are going to Beirut, and also for Rev. Dr. A. J. McFarland and Mrs. McFarland, who are returning to the Syrian field.

\* \* \* \*

Dr. and Mrs. Calvin McCarroll and family expect to leave Brooklyn September 14th on the steamer Providence. They are returning to Cyprus.

\* \* \* \*

On September 14th Dr. and Mrs. E. J. M. Dickson will sail from the Pacific coast. They are returning to Lo Ting, China, after their furlough.

\* \* \* \*

The following interesting items have been culled from personal reports to the Board from the missionaries in the different fields:

"As far as can be learned there are in Syria proper 14,000 Syrian Evangelical Christians, 6000 S. S. pupils, 1200 teachers in 90 Sabbath schools."

\* \* \* \*

"The congregation at Latakia, Syria, presented a call to Rev. Khalil Awad to be their pastor. He was recently ordained and installed over that congregation."

\* \* \* \*

There was an enrollment of 95 in the two schools at Mersine last December. There is great need of a con-

secrated young man teacher for the boys' school there.

\* \* \* \*

Mrs. R. E. Willson, of the Mersine station, has succeeded in keeping up the meetings among the women in the homes on Thursday afternoon almost without a break. At these meetings Rosa, the Bible woman, and Katrina, the wife of the native preacher, read and explain the Word. The attendance varies from 20 to 35. The meetings are held in different homes each week. For most of these women this one hour a week furnishes the only food for their minds and souls, and is the only diversion from the round of small gossip which occupies the mind and thought of these illiterate people. Very few of those who attend the meetings are able to read.

\* \* \* \*

At the Annual Meeting of the missionaries in China, the printing of 500 copies of the present Chinese Psalter was authorized, to include some of the chants that have been worked out. The testing out of these is yet to be accomplished, but it is thought the chanting of the Psalms in Chinese may prove practical. Miss Barr was given the privilege of devoting part of her time to the development of chants.

\* \* \* \*

The Covenanter Bi-Monthly was published during the year under the efficient editorship of Miss Rose Huston, and has proved a valuable instrumentality for the dissemination of truth, and in creating an active interest in the affairs of the Church. A. I. Robb was appointed assistant editor, and each of the congregations at Tak Hing and Lo Ting were asked to appoint a Chinese assistant. El-

liott's "Handbook for Young Christians" has been translated into Chinese, and was published during the year. A primary catechism for use among the illiterate was ordered published.

\* \* \* \*

Dr. Edna Wallace attended a meeting of the China Missionary Medical Association which was held in Peking in March. Writing of it she says: "This is the first meeting of any size I ever attended where the work of the Master was prominently placed first. To see nearly one hundred Chinese men and women of the same profession, in the same assembly, and to think that they, too, are going out into all parts of the world (or rather China) the Master's vineyard, to teach, to heal and to comfort the broken-hearted. It was a sight worthwhile seeing."

\* \* \* \*

From Rev. Jesse C. Mitchel: "We have not been troubled from lack of variety, for the gardens are to be looked after, crops planted, communions to be held, baptisms to be performed, overseeing of laborers (some days nearly fifty of them), buying and selling pigs, testing silk worm eggs for the elimination of disease, teaching woodwork, milking cows and raising a family. We have come to know the manipulation of the string to a ring in a cow's nose to make her "gee and haw" and the proper grunts for the other directions. We know just how much shine the silk worms should have on their backs, and how much noise they should make in eating to be good ones. We know how to use the native carpenter's tools in the native way, but lack the skill of the toes. We feel that more has been learned than taught, and through it all have come to have a better appreciation of the Chinaman and to love him more."

\* \* \* \*

Miss Elizabeth McElroy writes from Suk el Gharb, Lebanon, Syria. Her letter is dated April 22, 1921, and follows:

"Our winter among the Lebanons was a very enjoyable one. Owing to the beautiful weather, classes were often held out-of-doors until the beginning of the new year. But during the months of January and February our oil stoves which we had brought with us from America were put into good use. One night a sufficient amount of snow fell to make snowballing possible for three or four days.

"The Easter vacation, spent with the Latakia workers, leaves happy memories long to be cherished. The folks there are to be congratulated on their newly-organized congregation, with such a consecrated young native pastor and two devoted elders. During my stay I had the pleasure of getting an insight into the medical side of the work, a phase of missionary life, of which I had hitherto been ignorant. One morning Mrs. Balph took me into the rooms where about ninety people were waiting for the doctor. Sitting at the entrance of the two rooms was a Bible woman, the young pastor's mother, who was earnestly imparting to them the Word of Life. In the room to her right were the men, and in that to her left were the women, many of whom were mothers with their little babies, who were greatly in need of medical treatment. I was much surprised to find that most of the women were Moslems. My heart shrank as I gazed upon the poor mothers and the little babies thin, diseased and colorless, yet I was filled with joy when I thought of the great Physician, of whom they were being told, who could heal both soul and body. How earnestly they all listened to the reading and the explanation of a portion of Scripture taken from the first chapter of James, special emphasis being laid on the following words:

"'For if any be a hearer of the Word and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.' Dr.

Balph is kept very busy with the clinic and hospital work, besides the many outside calls that must be made every day.

"My visit with Miss Edgar to the Khans, where the Gunamia people are staying until they can get back to their homes, was a new experience also. In some places ten and twelve of these homeless ones are staying in the same room. What a hearty greeting they gave us as we went from one little cell to another. They certainly feel deeply grateful for what has been done to alleviate their suffering. As an expression of love to Miss Edgar one woman said, 'When you go to America the foundation of the house will be gone;' another said, 'When you, our mother, leave what will we do?'

"It would be a great joy to the

friends at home if they could see the fifteen little girl boarders dressed in the gingham dresses, pinafores, etc., that formed part of the contents of the seventy-five boxes sent out last year. Every Sabbath afternoon Miss Kennedy teaches them the Psalms in English, and it is really amazing how quickly they learn them. One Sabbath evening when I was present Miss Kennedy took them to the hospital to sing for the patients. Miss Kennedy in her winsome way has certainly won the hearts of the people.

"After a very enjoyable time and a nice rest from Arabic, I have returned again to struggle once more with the difficulties of what the people here say is the language of angels. If so, I hold it is that of the fallen angels, part of the punishment inflicted upon them in their fallen estate."

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## WOMEN'S DEPARTMENT

Edited by MRS. J. S. MARTIN and MRS. M. E. METHENY,  
College Hill, Beaver Falls, Pa.

When this issue of OLIVE TREES reaches its readers the minds of the women will be directed toward our Synodical meeting. We shall hope to be able to give through the pages of Women's Department, to those who could not attend, many of the good things heard and experienced at the different sessions.

Our prayer should be that there would be a deepening of interest in all our Missions and, if possible, a reaching out into new fields.

Since Christianity has given woman a higher place, and since to her was first given the command, "go tell," by her risen Lord, it is most fitting she should be desirous to reach her sisters in countries where the Light of the Gospel has never penetrated and where women especially suffer for lack of that Light.

We ask that the ones at home unite with us whose privilege it may be to attend the Synodical meeting, in beseeching a throne of Grace that the Spirit might guide in every action taken and that our faith fail not in aspiring great things and in entering where He opens the door.

\* \* \* \*

At the close of each College year we have asked for a report of the work done by the Y. W. C. A. at Geneva College. We are glad to give our readers the report made out this year by Miss Eileen Lowans, telling of work done this last year.

Not a few girls who have been in this organization in former years have found their lifework in Mission fields or some other distinctly Christian work. These Christian Associations in our College should receive

the prayerful support of our entire Church.

\* \* \* \*

### JUNIOR DEPARTMENT.

MISS MARY MCWILLIAMS.

#### How to Organize a Junior Missionary Society.

The first step in organizing a Junior Missionary Society is to secure the approval and co-operation of your Pastor.

The second step is the co-operation and support of the Women's Missionary Society, who should elect the Superintendent.

The Superintendent should be one who has love for the cause of missions and love for children.

See that every child in the congregation from birth to fifteen years of age has an invitation to become a member; have your Pastor make a plea in behalf of the organization, from the pulpit.

Form circles or divisions according to age or sex. All the babies and children under six years of age form the Little Light Bearers' Circle. They are not expected to attend the meetings, but their card giving full name and birthday are signed by the mother, who pledges twenty-five cents a year for the Little Light Bearers' Fund. These cards should be kept by the Superintendent, signed anew each year, until, at the age of six, the child is graduated into the Junior Society.

In the other divisions, place those who range from 6 to 8; 9 and 10; 11 and 12; 13 and 14, after which age the Junior graduates into the Y. P. C. U.

#### THE FIRST MEETING.

Plan to have your first meeting a success by means of a bright, wide-awake program. Compare child life in foreign lands with child life in Christian lands. Show pictures and curios from mission fields. Be enthusiastic, so the boys and girls will catch your enthusiasm. Tell what the Juniors have done and talk about

your plans. Invite your Presbyterian Junior Secretary to be present and help organize.

Have the boys and girls, with the consent of the parents, sign the Membership Card. Read the Constitution and adopt it Article by Article, with such changes as are necessary to best meet local conditions.

Elect officers and appoint committees.

Announce your plans for the next meeting and close with a social hour with refreshments.

Hold the regular meetings weekly, semi-monthly, or monthly, at such time and place as is most convenient.

Report your organization promptly to your Presbyterian Junior Secretary.

Secure a Junior Manual with full directions for conducting the society, committees and their work, finances, etc.; also some splendid exercises for memory work.—*Women's General Missionary Society of the U. P. Church.*

### RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CHRISTIAN HOME.

The other day a Christian mother whose family has grown up and gone not only from home but from the church, said to me: "I wonder what the young people now would think if they had to spend Sundays in the way we spent them when we were children." She told how her mother used to gather her children around her on Sabbath day and teach them Bible stories and the catechism, and how they never thought of reading anything except religious literature. Then when they grew tired of reading and study they went for a quiet walk with mother. "I guess," she added, "if the young people now had to spend Sunday that way they would think it terrible."

She talked as if she regretted the changed attitude of youth toward the Sabbath, but she saw no remedy for it, and she failed to understand its significance. Why is it that children



and young people in many Christian homes today show so much less interest in religious things than did their parents of the preceding generation? Is it not partly (or shall we say largely) because parents themselves have grown careless? In the hurry of modern life do we study our Bibles and pray as much as we should? Are we comrades in study with our children or do we set them down to study their Sabbath-school lessons alone while we are busy with the work of the house?

We would not think of leaving the children alone at dinner to eat just what and how their own understanding prompted them; yet we leave them to eat their spiritual food alone, and as a result they have spiritual indigestion and loss of appetite, and by the time that they are to the "young people" age the disease is chronic. They have lost their interest.

The mother before mentioned, who gathered her children about her and taught them, was their comrade, their leader. She saw to it that they had the proper idea of things they studied, and in this way the study became interesting because mother was in it, too.

I remember as a child seeing my own mother on the Sabbath sit and ask us most of the catechism without even a book to guide her, so familiar was she with it. And how well am I following her example? I must confess that I could not even answer all those questions if they were asked me.

Someone may say that the Sabbath-school now gives the training that was formerly necessary in the home. Why nothing in the world can effectively counter-balance the lack of religion in the home. The importance of home religion is simply beyond estimate. It is by far the most important factor in the moulding of a life. And then it is well nigh impossible to create much of an interest in the Sabbath school even, if father or mother at home to give the impression to the

children that they may have outgrown their religious habits such as personal prayer and Bible study. Boys will unconsciously, nine time out of ten, grow more and more like their father, and girls will unconsciously grow more and more like their mother. So if father smokes the boys will likely do it also; if father swears Johnnie will swear, too. Well I wonder if children would not just as readily take up a good habit of their parents as they would an evil one if such a habit or custom was presented to them in the proper light.

So if we desire our children to be interested in Bible study, we ourselves should set them the example; if we desire that they love family worship we should let them know that their presence in it is essential and it should never be neglected. Comradeship with our children in spiritual things is essential if we are to expect them to grow in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Really, when we pause to consider, is not a child in the home, one of the greatest responsibilities that God has conferred upon the race? Its moral and religious training there will in a large measure determine the degree of its usefulness in the upbuilding of the kingdom of God and also in a large measure it will determine the destiny of its soul.

MRS. J. K. GAULT.

Cambridge, Mass.

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## GENEVA COLLEGE Y. W. C. A. 1920-1921.

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### OFFICERS.

President, Mae Keys.

Vice-President, Margaret Robb.

Secretary, Myra Edgar.

Treasurer, Eileen Lowans.

The officers for this year were elected last Spring, and several Cabinet meetings were held before the close of college to formulate plans for the early Fall. Under the able leadership of our president, Mae Keys,

work was started with zest at the very beginning of the year. One of the first objects which met the eyes of the Freshmen as they entered the college hall on registration day, was the Blue Triangle Booth, which served as a "general information bureau" to those unaccustomed to the ways of the college.

Then, the next night, the Y. M. and Y. W. united in giving the annual reception to the Freshmen, commonly known as the "Thousand-Mile Walk." This event was very successful, and the Freshmen all seemed to be better acquainted after that evening.

Shortly after came the Y. W. Tea and reception to the new girls, and propaganda was started to gain new members. At the "Candle initiation service," thirty new members were received, who were welcomed as a worthy addition to our ranks.

We sent four delegates to the Eaglesmere Conference in the summer of 1920, and were very much interested in the reports given by them at our early Fall meetings. They were full of enthusiasm over the Conference, and, consequently, we are making an attempt to send a larger number next summer if possible.

On October 30, the annual Halloween Masquerade was held in the Johnston Gymnasium, under the joint auspices of the Y. M. and Y. W. Many picturesque costumes were in evidence, and everyone enjoyed the rollicking good time.

The County Fair, held by the Y. M. and Y. W. on Friday evening, December 10, was planned for the purpose of reimbursing their respective treasuries, and about \$100 was cleared at this event.

A novel branch of work taken up by the Y. M. and Y. W. this year has been the direction of the Sabbath School of the Eastvale Mission. The two associations supply the teachers, and under the leadership of Mr. Patrick Murphy as Superintendent, and Herbert Gilchrist as assistant, the work has been carried on since Oc-

tober. The workers feel that they are gaining valuable experience, as well as helping along a good cause. During Christmas vacation an entertainment and treat was provided for the children. An interesting program, consisting of songs and recitations by the children, was followed by a visit from Santa Claus, who distributed candy and presents to the pupils.

As in former years, the Y. W. girls took up Mission study in four groups, Mrs. H. H. Wylie leading the Senior group, Miss Frances Aiken the Junior, Elizabeth Lee, the Sophomore, and Margaret Beattie the Freshman groups. The books used varied with the groups, but all served as the basis for a number of profitable discussions.

At the second college convocation the collection, as announced, was donated to the Near East Relief Fund, and to this was added the collection from the first meeting, which had been voted to the Y. M. and Y. W. The total sum was \$83.

Candy sales under the capable direction of Jane Golden have been held all during the year, several of them taking place on the Grandstand at the football games. These have brought in a profitable sum to the treasury.

In summing up, we would say that the year has been a profitable and helpful one for the Y. W. C. A., and we hope that the good work may be carried on in years to come, increasing the spirit of Christian sisterhood among the Geneva girls.

EILEEN LOWANS,  
Geneva College.

### RETURN OF DR. ROBB.

June 7, 1921, we open the forms here to announce the receipt of a Cablegram from China, saying that Dr. A. I. Robb and family have been ordered home on account of health. Dr. Robb will have the sympathy and prayers of the Church.—[EDITOR.]

## FOREIGN MISSIONARIES OF THE SYNOD OF THE REFORMED PRES. CHURCH

### *Latakia, Syria.*

REV. JAMES S. STEWART, D. D. On  
furlough  
 MRS. JAMES S. STEWART On  
furlough  
 REV. SAMUEL EDGAR  
 MRS. SAMUEL EDGAR  
 J. M. BALPH, M. D.  
 MRS. J. M. BALPH  
 MISS MAGGIE B. EDGAR  
 MISS ANNIE L. KENNEDY

### *Mersine, Asia Minor.*

REV. ROBERT E. WILLSON  
 MRS. ROBERT E. WILLSON On  
furlough  
 REV. ANDREW J. MCFARLAND On  
furlough  
 MRS. ANDREW J. MCFARLAND On  
furlough  
 JOHN PEOPLES, M. D. On  
furlough  
 MRS. JOHN PEOPLES  
 MISS M. ELMA FRENCH

### *Language School, Beirut, Syria*

MISS MARY E. SHANKS  
 MISS ELIZABETH MCELROY

### *Larnaca, Cyprus*

REV. ALVIN W. SMITH  
 MR. ERNEST V. TWEED

### *Nicosia, Cyprus*

CALVIN MCCARROLL, M. D.  
 MRS. CALVIN MCCARROLL

### *Tak Hing Chau, West River, South China*

REV. A. I. ROBB, D. D.  
 MRS. A. I. ROBB

REV. J. K. ROBB On  
furlough  
 MRS. J. K. ROBB  
 REV. JULIUS A. KEMPF  
 MRS. JULIUS A. KEMPF  
 KATE W. MCBURNEY, M. D.  
 MISS MARY R. ADAMS  
 MISS ROSE A. HUSTON  
 MISS NELLIE A. BROWNLEE  
 REV. JESSE C. MITCHEL  
 MRS. JESSE C. MITCHEL  
 MISS LILIAN J. MCCrackEN

### *Do Sing, West River, South China*

REV. R. C. ADAMS  
 MRS. R. C. ADAMS

### *Canton Medical Missionary Union, Canton, South China*

JAMES M. WRIGHT, M. D.  
 MRS. JAMES M. WRIGHT

### *Lo Ting, Via Canton, South China*

E. J. M. DICKSON, M. D. On  
furlough  
 MRS. E. J. M. DICKSON  
 MISS JEAN M. BARR  
 REV. WILLIAM M. ROBB  
 MRS. WILLIAM M. ROBB  
 MISS ELLA MARGARET STEWART  
 MISS JENNIE M. DEAN  
 MISS M. EDNA WALLACE, M. D.

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REV. W. W. CARITHERS, *Superintendent.*  
 MISS INEZ WICKERHAM  
 MISS ELLEN WILSON  
 MISS IRENE MCMURTRY  
 MISS MAE ALLEN

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Philadelphia, Pa.

MISS ANNIE FORSYTH  
 MISS EMMA M. MCFARLAND

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 MISS ISABEL MCFARLAND  
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 MR. ROBERT CRAWFORD  
 MR. SAMUEL JACKSON  
 MR. MELVILLE PEARCE  
 MISS ANNA THOMPSON  
 The Cameron Society of  
 the Second Church

### *Southern Mission, Selma, Ala.*

REV. G. A. EDGAR, *Superintendent*  
 MISS MINNIE L. WILSON, *Principal*  
 MISS VEDA TWINAM, *High School*  
 MRS. C. E. BROOKS, *Grammar School*  
 MISS MARY WILSON, *Sixth Grade*  
 MISS LAURA WEIR, *Fifth Grade*  
 MRS. M. I. ROBB, *Fourth Grade*  
 MISS JENNIE SMITH, *Third Grade*  
 MISS E. A. MARTIN, *Second Grade*  
 MISS ELSIE MCGEE, *Primary*  
 MISS MARY E. FOWLER, *Girls' Indus. Dept.*  
 PROF. THEO. B. LEE, *Boys' Indus. Dept.*  
 MISS SOPHIE KINGSTON, *East Selma*  
 MRS. LILA CRAIG, *East Selma*  
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 MRS. E. O. SENEGAL, *Home Visitor*

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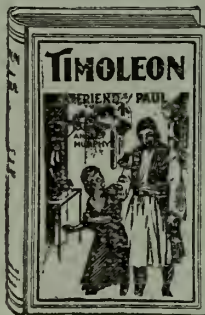
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